

The Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development (MDHEWD) is working to empower every Missourian with the skills and education needed for success. We appreciate the partnership of school counselors, financial aid professionals, and college access organizations to help us achieve this vision. We hope the information in this handout will help you learn more about our programs and we invite you to join us in this work by participating in Journey to College.

What is Journey to College?

Journey to College, sponsored by MDHEWD, works to increase college access and affordability to help Missouri students plan for the future. Increasing access to college is an important part of Missouri's Big Goal to have 60 percent of working-age adults hold a high-quality certificate or degree by 2025.

Journey to College includes outreach programs, publications, a student-centered website, social media, and presentations. Participation in these programs promotes a more equitable experience for all of Missouri's high school students by providing a framework all schools can implement. The events and activities are unique to each school but the information and opportunities provided are the same for every student.

Why participate in Journey to College programs?

- **Find tools, information, and support** for college and career programming you're already providing to your students. We know you're doing this important work and we're here to help.
- **Gain access to free promotional items and publications** that you can share with students and families. MDHEWD is a one-stop shop for free resources – you order it and we ship it.
- **Receive free professional development** by attending the annual Journey to College Day workshop offered every summer. Join counselors from around the state to network, share best practices, and receive state and federal financial aid updates.

How do I participate in Journey to College?

Visit: <https://dhewd.mo.gov/ppc/journeytocollege.php>

- **Register as a Journey to College Site Coordinator**
- **Use the online Site Coordinator Resource Manual** for tips, checklists, and ideas for hosting Apply Missouri, FAFSA Frenzy, and Decision Day activities at your school.
- **Share Journey to College resources** with your students and families by ordering materials from MDHEWD.
- **Request a speaker from MDHEWD.** Our presentations include planning and paying for college, state and federal financial aid programs, and financial literacy topics.

Journey to College Outreach Programs:

- **Apply Missouri** – provides assistance during the regular school day to help students research colleges, apprenticeships, and other training programs that best meet their needs and submit admissions applications.
- **FAFSA Frenzy** – provides free, one-on-one assistance to help students and families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- **Decision Day** – celebrates seniors' postsecondary plans to enroll in college, enter the military or go straight into the workforce and helps kick-start a plan for seniors who have not yet decided.
- **Journey to College K-8** – helps students in elementary and middle school start thinking about future careers. The program provides resources and activities to support college and career-oriented activities for kids.

Find resources and tools online at journeytocollege.mo.gov

Plan



Prepare for college
and a career

Explore colleges,
majors, and careers

- **College & Degree Search**
collegesearch.mo.gov
- **MoSCORES**
scorecard.mo.gov/
- **MO Apprenticeship Connect**
www.moapprenticeshipconnect.com/
- **Apply Missouri**
journeytocollege.mo.gov/apply-missouri
- **Student Workspace**
web.dhewd.mo.gov/studentworkspace/login.faces
- **Decision Day**
journeytocollege.mo.gov/decision-day

Pay



Search for scholarships
Help completing a FAFSA

- **Student Financial Aid Portal**
web.dhewd.mo.gov/studentportal/
- **FAFSA Frenzy**
journeytocollege.mo.gov/fafsa-frenzy
- **Scholarship Search**
journeytocollege.mo.gov/pay/scholarships/

Finish

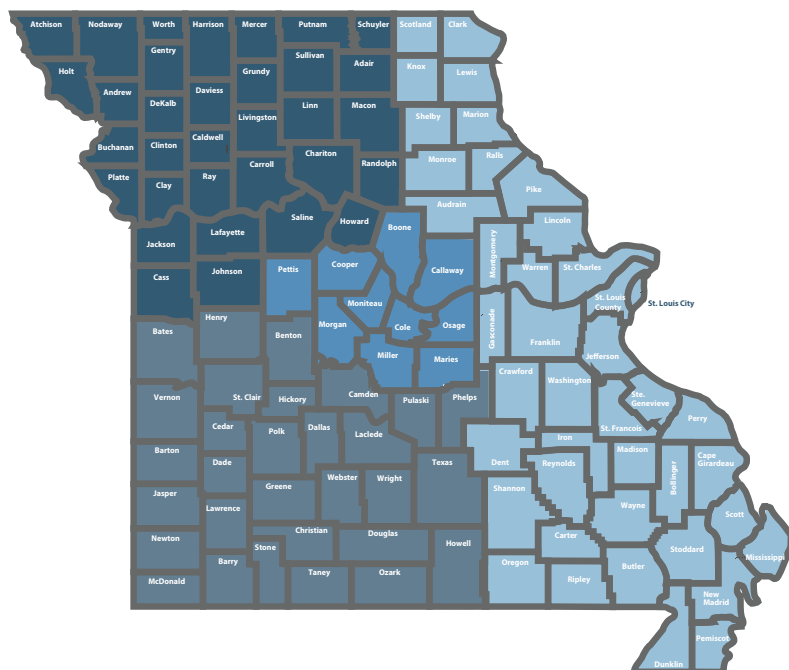


Succeed in school
Complete your degree

- **Course Transfer Tracker**
web.dhewd.mo.gov/coursetransfertracker/homepage.faces
- **MO Intern Connect**
www.mointernconnect.com/
- **15 to Finish**
journeytocollege.mo.gov/15-to-finish
- **Math Pathways**
journeytocollege.mo.gov/finish/complete-your-degree/math-pathways/

MDHEWD Outreach Services

Contact the Outreach Services Coordinator in your region for more information and assistance.



Northwest

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Southwest

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Eastern

Kim Howe

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(573) 291-9149

Social media activities

The department provides information to students and their families about planning and paying for college through the following social media accounts: journeytocollege Journey2College journey2college

College fairs

The department participates in the Missouri Association for College Admission Counseling college fairs throughout the state.

Webinars and presentations

The department offers webinars and presentations on planning and paying for college and financial literacy to students and their families throughout the state, primarily at high schools but also at career centers and community facilities.

Journey to College Monthly Reminder

An email with tips and reminders for students, parents, and counselors about planning and paying for college. The Journey to College Monthly Reminder is produced 10 times each year. Sign up to receive the reminder at journeytocollege.mo.gov/connect.

Missouri FAFSA Completion Project

<https://dhewd.mo.gov/fafsa-completion/>

This project helps school districts ensure high school seniors successfully complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Once districts set up a data sharing agreement with MDHEWD, designated staff users will be able to access

student-level data on FAFSA completion. This information can be used to provide individual, targeted outreach to seniors who have errors or incomplete FAFSAs and those who have been selected for verification.

Show-Me FAFSA Challenge

<https://dhewd.mo.gov/fafsachallenge>

A statewide FAFSA completion challenge where all public high schools in Missouri are entered and eligible to compete. The goal of the challenge is to increase FAFSA filing by high school seniors. Prizes will be awarded in the form of scholarships for a student at the winning schools. Check out the webpage for more details!

Free Publications & Resources



- 1 The Missouri Source** — A guide for Missouri students about planning and paying for college, including information about federal and state grants, scholarships, loans, and assistance completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
- 2 Smart About Spending** — A Teacher's Guide and Student Workbook for the required high school personal finance class. The text and activities cover the competencies outlined in the Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education's curriculum for personal finance.
- 3 Planning for Financial Success** — A booklet with budget worksheets and monthly calendar for high school seniors and college students that provides financial literacy and money management tips.
- 4 Journey to College Portfolio** — A tabbed accordion folder that allows students to organize college and financial aid documents in one place.
- 5 Journey to College Magnet** — A monthly calendar for high school seniors featuring tasks related to applying to and preparing for college.
- 6 It's Never Too Late** — A guide for adults interested in learning how to pursue additional education or training.

Journey to College K-8 Publications



- 7 It's Never Too Early** — A guide about planning for college geared toward elementary and middle school students and their parents.
- 8 Color your Future! Careers Coloring Book** — A coloring book to help elementary students understand different career options.
- 9 College & Career Bookmarks** — Four oversized bookmarks to get elementary and middle school students talking about colleges and careers.

Visit <https://dhewd.mo.gov/publications.php> to order **FREE** publications.